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Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world"
Second session
3-14 April 2000
Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world": consideration of the draft final document of the special session

Proposed outcome: revised text submitted by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee

The Chairman's working draft is in three parts:

Part I (Reaffirmation of the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Summit for Social Development), to be undertaken by the Preparatory Committee as a separate exercise, contains a short political declaration that could be adopted by the General Assembly at its special session;

Part II (Review and assessment of implementation) was adopted by the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-eighth session;

Part III (Further initiatives for inclusion in the outcome of the special session) contains elements for inclusion and elaboration by the Preparatory Committee at its second session and adoption by the General Assembly at its special session.

Part I
Reaffirmation of the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Summit for Social Development

Political Declaration

1. Five years have passed since the World Summit for Social Development, which marked the first time in history that heads of State and Government had gathered to recognize the significance of social development and human well-being for all and to give these goals the highest priority into the twenty-first century. The Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action established a pact for the eradication of poverty and national and international standards for social development.

2. We, the representatives of Governments and peoples, meeting at this special session of the General Assembly in Geneva to assess progress and decide on

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further initiatives to accelerate social development for all, reaffirm the commitments and strategies adopted at the Social Summit and will continue to apply them to public policy. In confronting the social challenges of our time, we have undertaken to translate words into deeds.

3. Since the Social Summit, recognition of the imperative of social development has spread and strengthened. The review and appraisal conducted in preparation for this special session has shown us that nations have attempted to improve the well-being of their peoples, that all have more to learn, that all have experiences worth sharing and that there is no single, universal path to achieving social development.

4. Growing global integration and continuing rapid technological advances offer previously unimagined opportunities for social and economic progress; but they have also contributed to intensifying crises, insecurity, exclusion and inequality within and between societies. Considerable obstacles to participation in the global economy remain. Rampant inequalities in income, wealth and opportunity defeat the ideal of social justice and increase the possibility of social disintegration. Unless social and economic development are extended within nations and worldwide, a growing number of people, countries and even entire regions will be condemned to lasting marginalization.

5. We therefore reiterate our determination and duty to eradicate poverty, to ensure that opportunities are available for productive and fairly remunerated employment and to heal conflict and strengthen social solidarity. Achievements must be assessed not in terms of economic activity alone, but also in terms of the security, personal initiative, equality and freedom of people and the degree of opportunity and justice that societies provide all their members. An effective regulatory structure set by transparent and accountable government is a necessary condition.

6. A more determined application of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action is also necessary. Integrated and coherent social and economic policies are required to strengthen the links between growth, poverty eradication and social development and close the gap between goals and achievements. We invite the United Nations to lead a process involving the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the International Labour Organization, the World Trade Organization and other multilateral organizations in the elaboration of an agreed strategy conducive to strengthening the quality and consistency of the support by the international community for social and economic development. This in turn requires not only renewed political will but also the mobilization and allocation of additional resources at both national and international levels.

7. Societies require economies conducive to promoting participation, integrity and social justice. Accessible high-quality education, as well as health and welfare services available to all and provided by the appropriate combination of the public sector, civil society and private business in each country, are essential.

8. We dedicate ourselves to maintaining, strengthening and extending social solidarity through policies and programmes for cohesive and caring societies so that all people — women as well as men, the young as well as older persons, people with disabilities and all other individuals and groups with special needs — can live fulfilling lives.

9. Enhanced international cooperation is essential for managing globalization in the interests of all countries and peoples. International policies and institutions must be extended and strengthened to enlarge the range of global public goods and to enable democratic participation in international discourse by all countries to improve the prospects that the gains promised by economic growth and global integration will be shared equitably and that poverty will be banished from the world.

10. Determined to give new momentum to the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, we here set out further initiatives on which our Governments have agreed. We invite all people in all countries and in all walks of life, both as individuals and through the public, private or civil society organizations of which they are a part, to join in renewed dedication to our shared vision for a more just and equitable world.